

Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ADP-00 OMB-01 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15 RSR-01 /106 W

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R 221018Z AUG 73

FM USINT CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3645

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 2540

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR EG LY

SUBJECT: MARWAN'S TRAVELS AND MERGER

1. WELL-INFORMED EGYPTIAN JOURNALISTIC SOURCE TOLD US AUGUST 22 THAT, ACCORDING TO HIS SOURCES, EGYPTIAN PRESIDENTIAL INFO SECRETARY ASHRAF MARWAN'S VISIT TO LIBYA AUGUST 17-18 WAS TO PRESENT A "FINAL" EGYPTIAN POSITION ON MERGER. ACCORDING TO INFORMANT, MARWAN TOLD QADHAAFI THAT GOE WAS PREPARED TO ACCEPT A REFERENDUM ON SEPTEMBER 1 ON THE QUESTION OF WHETHER THERE SHOULD OR SHOULD NOT BE UNITY. IF THE ANSWER WAS FAVORABLE, THEN A CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY WOULD BE CHOSEN TO DISCUSS WAYS AND MEANS BY WHICH UNITY SHOULD BE ACHIEVED. MARWAN RECEIVED NO RESPONSE. ACCORDING TO INFORMANT, LIBYAN POSITION REMAINS ESSENTIALLY AS IT EMERGED FOLLOWING HATEM'S TALKS IN TRIPOLI EARLIER THIS MONTH--THAT UNITY BE PROCLAIMED AND FULLY IMPLEMENTED SEPTEMBER 1 AND THAT ANY REFERENDUM WOULD BE HELD ONLY TO ACHIEVE POPULAR RATIFICATION OF THE MERGER.

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2. ACCORDING TO THIS STORY, EGYPTIANS HAVE GONE AS FAR AS THEY CAN, AND BALL IS NOW IN QADHAAFI'S COURT. INFORMANT STATES THAT GOE WOULD BE ONLY TOO HAPPY TO SEE QADHAAFI REJECT EGYPTIANS OUTRIGHT SO THAT NOTHING IN EFFECT WOULD OCCUR SEPTEMBER 1.

3. INFORMANT CONTINUED THAT MARWAN RETURNED TO CAIRO BRIEFLY, THEN DEPARTED FOR KUWAIT. INFORMANT HAD NO INFORMATION ON MARWAN'S TRIP TO KUWAIT, EXCEPT TO NOTE "POSSIBILITY" OF HIS PROCEEDING ONWARD TO JIDDA. HE NOTED CURRENT EXPECTATION THAT SADAT WOULD BE GOING TO JIDDA VERY SOON, POSSIBLY WITHIN NEXT DAY OR TWO.
WILEY

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30 JUN 2005

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